

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1406

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

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S E C R E T NICOSIA 1132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR GR TU CY

SUBJ: TURKISH COMMENT RE GREEK CYPRIOT TERRORISM

REF: ANKARA 2388

1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT TURKISH CLAIM THAT GOC IS USING QUOTE POLITICAL PARTY CLOSE TO MAKARIOS UNQUOTE TO READY A TERRORIST GROUP WHICH WILL HIT TURKS ON ISLAND AND ELSEWHERE. END SUMMARY.

2. ONLY ONE MAN FITS GUVENDIREN'S DESCRIPTION: RADICAL LEFTISH DR. VASOS LYSSARIDES, WHOSE EDEK PARTY ESPOUSES STRONG ANTI-USG, PRO-ARAB LINE. OVER PAST MONTHS, LYSSARIDES AND HIS EDEK MINIONS HAVE REGULARLY STUMPED REFUGEE CAMPS PREACHING "RESISTANCE," "STRUGGLE", ETC. THUS FAR, THEIR SUCCESS APPEARS LIMITED. THEY HAVE MILKED POPULAR DISCONTENTS BUT SHIED AWAY FROM OPEN ADVOCACY OF TERRORISM.

3. TURKS MAY HAVE DRAWN CONCERN FROM RECENT GREEK CYPRIOT REFERENCES TO UNSPECIFIED "IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS", RIGHT AND LEFT,

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WHO ARE THINKING OF GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST TURKISH FORCES.

SIGNIFICANTLY, WHOLE SPECTRUM OF GREEK CYPRUS OPENLY CONDEMNS THIS NOTION. COMMUNIST AKEL, STRONGEST PARTY ON ISLAND AND ALSO QUITE ACTIVE AMONG REFUGEE POPULATION, HAS COME OUT FORCEFULLY AGAINST ILLEGAL ARMED BANDS THAT MIGHT SEEK CONFRONTATION WITH TURKS. BOTH RIGHTIST PRESS AND PRO-MAKARIOS PHILELEFTHEROS HAVE QUOTED ATHENIAN ESTIA TO ARGUE THAT THOSE PREACHING TERRORIST/GUERRILLA GOSPEL ARE FOREIGN AGENTS, WORKING AGAINST INTERESTS OF HELLENISM.

4. STENTORIAN RHETORIC ASIDE, WE DOUBT THAT ANY GREEK CYPRIOT GROUP WANTS TERRORISM AGAINST TURKS. MOST GREEK CYPRIOTS REALIZE INSANITY OF SUCH A MOVE. ARCHBISHOP AND HIS SUPPORTERS HAVE TRIED TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC MORALE BY RHETORIC OF "STRUGGLE" AND "SACRIFICE", HOLDING OUT HOPE OF BETTER DAYS. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE DELIBERATELY AVOIDED GIVING CONTENT TO THESE IDEAS. EOKA-B IS PRESENTLY QUIESCENT, NUMB FROM DISASTER OF LAST SUMMER; IT IS MOST UNLIKELY TO START ANYTHING AGAINST MAKARIOS OR TURKS. MAKARIOS' ADVISOR, ANDREAS AZINAS SEES NO REPEAT NO CHANCE OF ANY GUERRILLA ACTIVITY AGAINST TURKS AT THIS TIME. IN MARCH 27 TALK WITH AMBASSADOR (SEPTTEL), CLERIDES TOOK SIMILAR LINE, ARGUING THAT, WHILE LYSSARIDES INDEED MAKING IRRESPONSIBLE NOISES, ALL REPEAT ALL GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERS AWARE OF DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES OF TERRORISM AND THAT NO ONE REPEAT NO ONE PLANNING SUCH STEP.

5. ON BASIS ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, WE CONCLUDE THERE IS PRESENTLY NO REPEAT NO SUCH THREAT ON ISLAND. WE CANNOT COMPLETELY RULE OUT SUCH CONTINGENCY, BUT WE BELIEVE IT MORE LIKELY COME IN LONGER TERM IF AND AS DESPERATION OF REFUGEE POPULATION MOUNTS, CREATING MORE FERTILE CLIMATE FOR SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE NOTIONS. CONCEIVABLY, GREEK TERRORISTS MIGHT AT THAT POINT RESORT TO OFF-ISLAND VIOLENCE, TO MAKE IT HARDER FOR TURKS TO WREAK VENGEANCE ON-ISLAND.

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